(a) whether Government have received the report of CBI against the officers of the Airport Authority of India in connection with the purchase of fire-tenders of capacity, efficiency and sophistication much above the requirement;

(b) if so, when and the details of the report submitted by the CBI; and

(c) whether prosecution has since been launched against those officers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The investigation report of the CBI, was received in August, 1993. However, on the receipt of further information, CBI has re-opened the investigation which is not yet complete.

Modernisation of Ordnance factories

336. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise some ordnance factories;

(b) if so, the ordnance factories identified therefor; and

(c) the details of funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Modernisation of ordnance factories is an on going programme and the steps taken include replacement and renewal of old plant and machinery, selective upgradation of processes and introduction of improved technology.

(b) Currently, eleven factories are undergoing modernisation in selective areas.

(c) An amount of over Rs. 300 crores has been kept for the current year.

Letters received from Members of Parliament

337. PROF. O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from the Members of Parliament in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how many of these letters are pending for reply; and

(c) the reasons for not replying to the letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The number of letters received from the Members of Parliament in the last three years is as under:—

1.11.91 to 31.10.92—3417

1.11.92 to 31.10.93—1753

1.11.93 to 31.10.94— 938

(b) Out of letters during the last three years, 404 letters are pending for reply.

(c) As per the laid down procedure, letters addressed by the Members of Parliament are replied to as soon as possible. If the information sought is not readily available, such letters are acknowledged pending complete reply and information is collected from various field establishments which are far-flung, often in remote areas. Frequently, time is taken to obtain the relevant information and details because the nature of the Ministry and the Defence Services requires that the request for the information as well as the flow of inputs follows due channels from echelon to echelon.

Phasing out of import of ammunition for Bofor Guns

338. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import for ammunition for 155mm Bofor Guns was to be phased out through indigenous production;

(b) if so, the policy in this regard, the details of the original (and revised, if any) scheme of phasing out the item-wise imports and the progress in this direction;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) item-wise quantity and value of import of different items of ammunition for Bofor Guns, during the last three years and their annual requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to(d) Production of 155mm ammunition has already started indigenously. A few types of the ammunition have been established and supplied to the Army. In the last three years there has been no import of this ammunition.

Procurement of boots for armed forces

339. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the cost of procurement for DMS boots and shoes for armed forces in consultation with BICP;

(b) whether the procurement price has been much less than the cost price during the last two years;

(c) whether any effective steps have been taken to ensure proper quality of procurement; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The cost price has not been worked out. Hence, no comparison can be made between procurement price and cost price.

(c) and (d) All stores are purchased after inspection to ensure adherence to quality specification.

Productions in Ordnance factory

340. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of requirements of armament equipment and other things manufactured by the Ordnance factory;

(b) the value of production of ordnance factories for the civil sector during the past four years and the percentage it constitutes of the total production;

(c) the percentage of production capacity lying idle and the estimated value thereof; and

(d) whether Government have taken final decision for the manufacture of ammunition for the Bofor guns in facilities created in the country and if so, by when the production is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) In terms of value, about 80 per cent of turnover of ordnance factories is for the defence forces.